

FAO Trade and Markets Division publications, 2006–08

Commodity Market Review 2007–2008 (2008)

Trade reforms and food security: case studies and synthesis (H. Thomas, ed.) (2006)

OECD–FAO Agricultural Outlook 2008–2017 (2008; copublished with OECD)

OECD–FAO Agricultural Outlook 2007–2016 (2007; copublished with OECD)

OECD–FAO Agricultural Outlook 2006–2015 (2006; copublished with OECD)

Agricultural commodity markets and trade. New approaches to analyzing market structure and instability (A. Sarris and D. Hallam, eds.) (2006; copublished with Edward Elgar)

WTO rules for agriculture compatible with development (J. Morrison and A. Sarris, eds.) (2007)

FAO Review of Agricultural Commodity Policies

1. *Policies for Basic Food Commodities: 2003–2004* (2006)

FAO Commodities and Trade Proceedings

2006

2. *Governance, coordination and distribution along commodity value chains*

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2008

11. *Value-adding standards in the North American food market. Trade opportunities in certified products for developing countries* (P. Liu, ed.)

2007

10. *Rural household vulnerability and insurance against commodity risks – Evidence from the United Republic of Tanzania* (A. Sarris and L. Christiaensen)

2006

9. *Agriculture and poverty in commodity dependent African countries: a rural household perspective from the United Republic of Tanzania* (A. Sarris, S. Savastano and L. Christiaensen)
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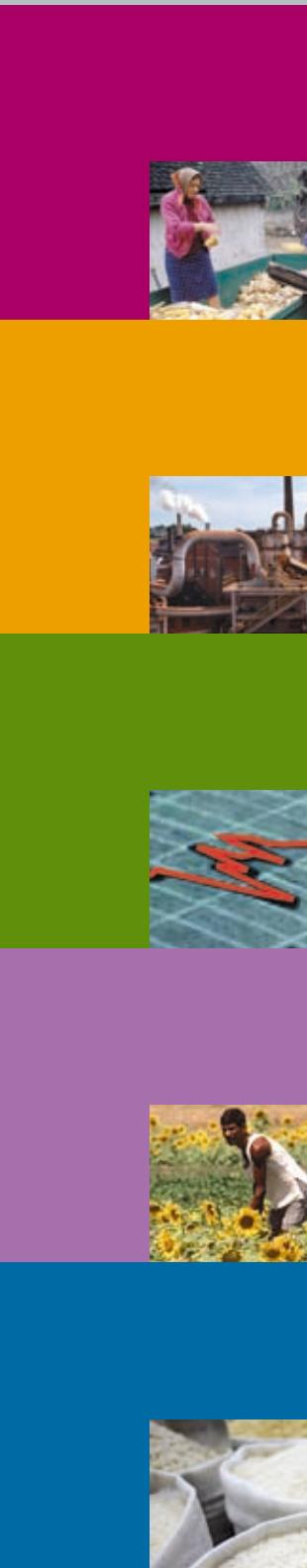
22. *Threshold cointegration in the sugar-ethanol-oil price system in Brazil: evidence from nonlinear vector error correction models* (G. Rapsomanikis and D. Hallam)
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18. *Producer demand and welfare benefits of rainfall insurance in Tanzania* (A. Sarris, P. Karfakis and L. Christiaensen)
17. *Household vulnerability in rural Tanzania* (A. Sarris and P. Karfakis)

The State of 2009 Agricultural Commodity Markets

In the first half of 2008, the world was facing the highest food price levels in 30 years and a global food insecurity crisis. Although international food prices have since fallen, they are still above the levels seen in recent years and are expected to remain so. FAO estimates that soaring food prices pushed another 115 million people into chronic hunger in 2007 and 2008, bringing the world total to nearly one billion hungry people.

This report explains why food prices increased and the steps needed to ensure that high food prices become an opportunity for developing country farmers to help safeguard world food supplies at affordable prices. It focuses on the extent to which “new” explanations – biofuel demand, record oil prices and increasing food demand in China and India – can account for the sudden food price inflation as well as the role of traditional market drivers. It also explores why so few producers in developing countries responded by investing more and increasing production. Soaring food prices and the consequent food crisis are matters of international concern that require concerted action – there is an urgent need to strengthen the governance of world food security.

The State of Agricultural Commodity Markets 2009 aims to bring to a wider public an accessible discussion of agricultural commodity market issues and policy matters. It seeks to provide an objective and straightforward treatment of economic issues for all those interested in agricultural commodity market developments and their impact on developing countries.



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